

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for stably producing an aromatic polycarbonate, which comprises continuously reacting an aromatic dihydroxy compound with a diaryl carbonate in a closed, reactor-pipeline system,

said closed, reactor-pipeline system comprising:

a plurality of reactors which are liquid-tightly connected through a pipeline toward an outlet for a final aromatic polycarbonate product, said pipeline comprising one or more pipes, wherein said plurality of reactors include at least two reactors connected in series, and

at least one filter secured in the pipe or pipes of said reactor-pipeline system,

wherein the or each filter is simultaneously or separately taken out to the outside of said reactor-pipeline system and subjected to washing in the outside of said reactor-pipeline system, followed by returning of the resultant washed filter into the inside of the pipe or pipes of said reactor-pipeline system,

said washing being performed with the below-mentioned washing agents used in the following order: an aqueous solution of a basic compound,

an aromatic monohydroxy compound, and

a molten mixture of an aromatic dihydroxy compound and a diaryl carbonate, said molten mixture containing a basic compound in an amount of from 1 to 10,000 ppb.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution of a basic compound has a pH value of from 7.5 to 10.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein said basic compound is an alkali metal hydroxide.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

5. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said aromatic dihydroxy compound is phenol.